

MINUTES
GOVERNOR'S P-20 COUNCIL
General Meeting-Tuesday, November 13, 2006
1:30 p.m.

Location: 1700 W. Washington
2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Members Present: Dr. Rufus Glasper, Cathleen Barton, Amy Besing, Mark Bryce, Ernie Calderon, Susan Carlson, Dr. Angel Cabrera, Dr. David Curd, Gregory Donovan, Dr. Sybil Francis, Lynda French, Dr. Kino Flores, Dr. Roy Flores, Harry Garewal, Bob Hagen, Cathy McKee, Superintendent Tom Horne, Dr. Karen Nicodemus, Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, Dr. Douglas Olesen, Dean Phillips, Kristen Rex, Xan Simonson, and Dr. Jim Zaharis.

Members Absent: Governor Janet Napolitano, Dr. Michael Crow, Dr. John Haeger, Dr. Robert Shelton, George Dean, Jack Jewett, Senator Toni Hellon (ex-officio), Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick and Laura Knaperek (ex-officio).

1. Call to Order & Welcome

Dr. Glasper called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Dr. Glasper introduced Mrs. Xan Simonson, Biotechnology Academy Coordinator for Mesa Public Schools, who will be joining the Council as a teacher representative. Dr. Glasper also welcomed Ken Kay, who would be presenting to the Council on the work of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.

Dr. Glasper indicated that the Council would be presented with the recommendations from all of committees regarding the work they have been doing since the inception of the Council. The goal for this meeting is to have a presentation of all of the committee recommendations, give Council members and the public some time to review and digest this information and provide any additional input and comments in the next few weeks, and to bring back the recommendations in a final form for adoption at the December meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes:
a. August 22, 2006

There being no discussion or corrections to the minutes, Dr. Jim Zaharis moved approval of the August 22, 2006 P-20 Council meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Dean Phillips and unanimously approved.

3. Update: Arizona Department of Education – High School Renewal Initiative

Dr. Karen Butterfield provided the Council with a presentation on the Department of Education's (ADE) Arizona High School Renewal & Improvement (AZHSRI) initiative. AZHSRI is structured upon the research of Breaking Ranks II (Brown University) and the presentation provided an overview of the three core areas of Breaking Ranks II. Dr. Butterfield emphasized that middle/high schools can utilize these recommendations in the school improvement process as "entry points", which allow school leaders flexibility in deciding which strategies best meet individual school community needs. Dr. Butterfield also covered the Department's next steps, including ADE's upcoming '06-'07 AZHSRI summits and Breaking Ranks II trainings. The Council engaged in Q&A with Dr. Butterfield following the presentation.

4. Presentation: The Partnership for 21st Century Skills

Ken Kay, President of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, briefed the Council on how the high school reform movement should fully and strategically integrate 21st century knowledge, skills and assessment. Mr. Kay discussed importance of how critical thinking, problem solving, innovation skills, communication skills, collaborative skills, global awareness and self-direction should become the new “design specs” for 21st Century education in Arizona. Mr. Kay then provided seven recommendations for the Council to consider as it works to develop the framework for education modernization: 1. Develop a consensus among the key stakeholders on the 21st century skills needed by Arizona students; 2. Create a teacher professional development strategy for 21st century skills; 3. Imbed 21st century skills in core subjects; 4. Upgrade assessments by including high-stakes, classroom assessments, senior projects and student portfolios to measure 21st century skills; 5. Focus on reforming high schools and on the results that matter in the 21st century and redefine rigor to include 21st century skills; 6. Collaborate with the business community; and 7. Collaborate with community-based groups. The Council engaged in a Q&A with Mr. Kay following the presentation.

5. Committee Updates

Debra Raeder indicated that the Committee recommendations and work plans are a culmination of the past year’s work of the Council; the goals and recommendations from the Retreat in June; and meetings of each of the committees. All of the recommendations as well as specific steps to achieve these goals have been provided in the Council packet.

Each Committee chair provided a brief overview of the Committee recommendations with committee members providing additional input and comment to the discussion. Council members will have 10 days to review the recommendations in detail and provide comment to staff by Monday, November 27, 2006.

The area drawing the most discussion was the Communications Committee recommendation to alter the vision statement. The vision statement originally read: *The freshman class of 2012 will be the first class in which every student is given the opportunity to graduate 21st Century ready.* The Communications Committee is recommending it be revised to read: *Every graduating student from the freshman class of 2012 will be prepared for work and post-secondary education in the 21st Century.* Some members of the Council expressed concern about changing the wording of the statement at this time. All members felt it imperative that this issue be resolved as soon as possible.

Other areas garnering discussion were:

- Whether the current recommendation from the Education Alignment Committee for three years of high school math should be changed to four years of math.
- In addition to the issue of “how much” math, the Council indicated the need to recommend a sequencing of math courses and/or that the senior year have a capstone math course.
- Implementing a college readiness assessment the junior year (such as ACT/SAT/ASSET/ACCUPLACER, etc.) The Council re-emphasized the need to try and implement an assessment in the junior year that will provide an indicator to students on how well prepared they are for higher education giving students the senior year to make education adjustments and/or remediation as necessary. Success on such an exam could then be the impetus for students to move on to concurrent classes, early high school graduation, or enrollment at the community colleges to get a jumpstart on college education. This was discussed at length at the Retreat, but was not emphasized in the recommendations.
- The Council requested that they be provided with the information from the study conducted by the Governor’s Committee on Teacher Quality and Support on teacher pay.

- Council members expressed general consensus in support of individualized education plans for students starting in the 6th grade.

Final recommendations will be made at the December 12th meeting for approval by the Council.

6. Call to the Public

Dudley Butts, Superintendent for the Agua Fria Union High School District addressed the Council to commend the work of the Council, and the Department of Education, and indicated that Arizona school districts are working hard to implement reforms in education to graduate students who are prepared for the workforce or postsecondary education.

7. Announcements and Adjournment

Dr. Glasper announced that the next Meeting of the P-20 Council is December 12th at 2:00 p.m. There being no further business, Dr. Glasper adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.